

ART EXHIBITIONS

The New York Water Color Club
in Excellent Form.

The first show of the season at the Fine Arts Building is a modest and very agreeable affair. The New York Water Color Club is in possession and fills two of the galleries with a collection of about three hundred and seventy-five pictures. These touch an excellent average. In fact, this organization has never left a pleasanter impression. It is thus successful because it has wonnowed out a good deal of the pretentious stuff which usually appears at an exhibition of the sort. There are uninteresting things on the walls, of course, but they do not prevail. On the contrary, one sees everywhere bright, clever bits of work that spell delight in a delightful medium.

Landscape, naturally, is much to the fore, and there is plenty of it that is really good. We note with special appreciation that there are only a few examples of water color handled too solemnly or too lightly. It is always dangerous to carry ambition in the use of this medium too far, to try to build up a landscape in water color as one might build it up in oils. It is so easy, by this process, to turn heavy-handed and dull. Your true water colorist is nothing if not fluent and spontaneous. We observe the right touch here in pictures by more than one old hand, in such pieces as Mr. Childe Hassam's beautiful "Sylph's Rock, Appaloosa," or Mr. C. P. Grappé's careful study in quiet tones, "Along the Creek," and, what is even more encouraging, there are a number of admirable contributions from less familiar sources. Vaguely we recall having seen before some water colors by M. Petersen—Mr. or Miss, we do not know—and it appears from the catalogue that this artist won a prize some five years ago. But what is especially striking about the "Winter, Jersey City," striking about this signature, and about two or three other pictures from the same brush, is that freshness which things satisfaction with surprise. Here is a water colorist who justly exploits the medium, producing work sufficiently solid and truthful and at the same time savoring of swiftness, of impetuosity setted at a stroke.

DR. JOHN BOYNTON PALMER.

Dr. John Boynton Palmer, well known as an oculist, died yesterday at his home, No. 23 West 103d street. Death was due to arterio-sclerosis, from which he had been a sufferer for some time. His death however, was entirely unexpected. He was apparently improving when his condition took a turn for the worse a few days ago. For many years Dr. Palmer was a professor of the New York Medical College and Hospital, of which his wife, Dr. Helen Conley Palmer, is the dean.

The show contains a striking quantity of pictures like those of Mr. Petersen's which have in them something of originality, hints of freedom and grace in the treatment of engaging themes. They range, too, over a fairly wide field as regards subject. There are sprightly notes of current life, like Mr. R. Wilkinson's concert scene, "Sunday Afternoon, Santa Monica"; there are glimpses of old world pictorial scenes like Mr. Corwin Knapp Linsen's "Wedding Procession, Brittany"; there is at least one good nude by Mrs. Clara Werner Earle, and there is an exceptionally large group of water colors having a slightly decorative and fanciful character. In this last category the pictures by John E. Hartman, Jessie Arms, Elizabeth Elmore, Charles H. Wright and Dugald Stewart Walker all deserve cordial approval. The more deliberately painted figure pieces make less and there is a good effect, notably in the case of "A Passing Glance" by Thomas E. Anshutz, in which a pretty girl looking into a mirror is skilfully portrayed. But on the whole, as has been suggested above, the least assuming studies are the more attractive.

As for the landscapes, there are more of them worthy of attention than we can conveniently discuss. Mr. Ernest D. Roth's "Bosom of the Hudson" and Venetian picture, "A Salem Residence"; the curiously appealing water color of an oil tenement, "The House of a Hungry Home," by Mrs. Rhoda Holmes Nichols; the Greek scenes solidly, though not very freshly, painted by Miss Paula B. Hinckley, and the good things by Emma W. Tuckbury, Anna Fisher, Alice Bement, Ethel F. Padwick, Everett J. Warner, Lawrence Grant and A. H. Ammar are perhaps all the recognizable exhibits that possess positive salience, but there are still other items that are far from being negligible. This is, in short, an insipid little exhibition. It lasts until November 26. It ought to prosper.

OBITUARY.

JOHN B. WARING.

John B. Waring, brother of the late Colonel George E. Waring, died last night at the home of his son, Walter Waring, No. 39 Lincoln street, Flushing, after an illness of two weeks. He was born seventy-seven years ago in Long Ridge, N. Y., and was educated in the common schools of Poughkeepsie. At an early age he became connected with the Empire Pen Company, whose plant was then in West 28th street, and soon turned his inventive genius to account.

He invented two pens, one of which he called the Chase Medallion, named for Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase, and the other the Washington Medallion. These pens became popular both in this country and abroad, and in the Waring family archives is a letter to Mr. Waring from Under Justice Chase, in which the jurist said he had been using the pen named for him for some time and found it the most serviceable one he had ever had.

When the Civil War broke out Mr. Waring enlisted in the 4th Missouri Cavalry as a lieutenant, and soon became a member of General John C. Fremont's staff. For his invention of a spike to replace the old-time lie used in spiking canons he was raised to the rank of major and transferred to the Ordnance Department.

After the war was over he joined the firm of Cheney Brothers at South Manchester, Mass., and invented a machine to separate silk from the cocoon, and a large number of rock drills and air compressors. His next venture was the formation of the Rand & Waring Compressing Company, which later became the Rand Drill Company and gave him the opportunity to add to the number of his inventions. In all, he was responsible for seventy-seven useful inventions, or one for each year of his life.

Mr. Waring was an intimate friend of Charles A. Dana and Horace Greeley. In 1858 he married Miss Henrietta Tufts, of Cambridge. She died soon after the celebration of their golden wedding. Besides the son Walter, at whose home Mr. Waring died, he leaves another son, Van Vechten Waring, of No. 99 Jefferson avenue, Brooklyn, and two daughters, Jane Louise Waring and Mrs. Elsie Norton Early, of Seattle.

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The story is a simple one, you see. The puzzle is to describe the emotions of the playgoer who finds himself face to face with a play which in its characters, lines, acting and situations is so poignantly reminiscent of his high school days as to be almost a matter for wondering if it is all real. It is seldom that the New York theatregoer can re-live in a professional theatre those old days when he and his school chums used to write plays and act in them.

And one who wishes to renew his youth in this way has the best of chances for doing so by visiting the Liberty Theatre now.

Thomas A. Wise is known to many through the "Gentleman from Mississippi," a play in which practically the whole United States has had an opportunity of seeing him. His scores of friends in last night's audience were in raptures over his return to New York. He and Mr. Barrymore made a sectional speech at the end of the second act, in which Mr. Wise said he was proud and happy to be associated with a Barrymore on the stage, for he had been in love with four generations of Barrymores off the stage. To which the younger man responded that if Mr. Wise were half as happy in the association as he himself, they would be as sympathetic in their mutual love as the Coriolan brothers.

The speeches formed, perhaps, the only clew to the evening's entertainment. It had made Mr. Wise and Mr. Barrymore happy.

As for the play and the acting, as there was nothing to the first there could necessarily be nothing to the latter. They say audiences have no memory, and that anything, however worn and faded, will do on the stage. But jokes and quips that are of the kind known even to people who are not habitual theatregoers as "ancient" should hardly be offered to the unsuspecting as food for amusement in a first class theatre in this city.

GENERAL P. H. RAY.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Oct. 30.—Brigadier General P. H. Ray, U. S. A. (retired), died suddenly this morning at Fort Niagara, at the age of seventy years.

General Ray's service in Alaska was his chief claim to recognition. During the first rush to the Klondike he was in charge of the government's interests there, and established Forts Gibbet and Egbert in that region.

After fighting throughout the Civil War with the volunteers and seeing service in the Indian campaigns, he was assigned in 1873 to accompany Greely on his Arctic expedition. In recognition of this service the Royal Geographical Society made him a fellow in 1884. He was also a delegate from this country to the International Polar Congress in Vienna the year after his return from the north.

General Ray was also in the field with the first expedition to the Yellowstone River with General David S. Stanley in 1872 and accompanied a second expedition there the next year. In the Spanish war he served with the 8th Infantry. He was placed on the retired list on May 8, 1896, with the rank of Brigadier General.

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